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P.O. Box 3448  
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102

1-877-846-7710

**EX PARTE**

**VIA ECFS AND EMAIL**

October 8, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42; *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 09-197; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, October 7, 2015, the undersigned met with Gigi Sohn, Counselor to the Chairman, Jonathan Chambers, Chief, Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, Jay Schwarz, Deputy Division Chief, Telecommunications Access and Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Trent Harkrader, Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Anita Patankar-Stoll, Office of the Managing Director, and Garnet Hanly, Ryan Palmer, Christopher Cook, Jodie Griffin, Nathan Eagan, Christian Hoefly, and Charles Eberle, all of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau. The attached presentation materials were distributed and discussed at the meeting.

At the meeting, I reiterated Connected Nation's belief that effective expansion of Lifeline to include broadband depends on engaging community institutions that are already serving the target, low-income population. I discussed two possible methods of bringing communities institutions into the program – as distributors of broadband connectivity (Figure 1 attached) or as broadband providers themselves (Figure 2 attached). Connected Nation believes that both models should be incorporated into the Lifeline program. The broadband distribution model (Figure 1) would allow community-based organizations to, with the assistance of Lifeline funds, procure broadband connectivity for direct distribution to low-income individuals. This approach would allow these organizations to procure broadband connectivity efficiently and in bulk, target and distribute to customers in need, and offer additional services like digital literacy training or remote health monitoring. Community-based organizations would be able to provide these benefits to their low-income customers without being forced to meet regulatory and business requirements of becoming retail broadband providers.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed electronically in the above-captioned dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

S/Thomas M. Koutsky

Thomas M. Koutsky  
Chief Policy Counsel  
(202) 674-8409  
tkoutsky@connectednation.org

cc:

Gigi Sohn, Office of the Chairman  
Jonathan Chambers, OSP  
Trent Harkrader, WCB  
Jay Schwarz, WCB  
Anita Patankar-Stoll, OMD  
Garnet Hanly, WCB  
Ryan Palmer, WCB

Christopher Cook, WCB  
Jodie Griffin, WCB  
Nathan Eagan, WCB  
Christian Hoefly  
Charles Eberle, WCB